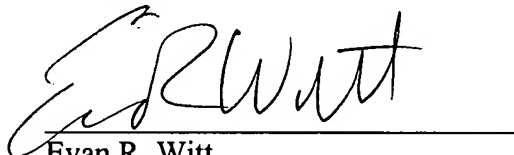


**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Office Action of August 25, 2004, the Examiner divided the claims pending in the present Application into four groups and required restriction of the Application to one of them for prosecution. The Applicant provisionally elects group I *with traverse*, asserting that as amended herewith, the claims are directed to a single invention, and as a result, restriction is unnecessary and improper. By this paper, claims 22, 26, 27, and 28 are amended to recite novel structural features from claim 1 such that the methods of groups II, III, and IV produce a bioartificial composite device having a first layer cells with uniformly-aligned cytoskeletal elements that may act as a template to accept a second layer of cells grown thereon. In this manner, the methods of groups II, III, and IV cannot be performed without producing the novel device of group I.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. Witt", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: September 23, 2004

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